Landline connections

2592. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total land-line connections both in rural and urban areas separately at the end of the year 2002-03;

(b) the number of cellular subscribers in the country separately for rural and urban areas;

(c) what is the combined tele-density for rural and urban areas;

(d) the targets regarding tele-density set for the year 2005 and 2010; and

(e) how these targets are proposed to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The total land line connection inclusive of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) in both rural and urban areas separately at the end of the year 2002-03 are as given below :

Rural	114.06 lakh lines
Urban	305.23 lakh lines

(b) For providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into 4 metro city service areas and 19 telecom circle service areas. (Total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service area and not to a particular city/town/village in the service area. As such the service areas cannot be categorized into rural and urban areas. The total number of Cellular subscribers in the country as on 31.03.2003 is 126.9 lakh.

(c) The combined tele-density for rural and urban areas as on 31.03.2003 is as given below :

Rural	1.49
Urban	14.32

(d) As per NTP-1999 the targets regarding tele-density for the year 2005 is 7 and for the year 2010 is 15 per hundred persons.

(e) The Government has adopted the following strategy to achieve these targets :

1. Services have been opened for competition.
2. No. of Cellular operators have been increased from 2 to 4 in each circle.
3. New technologies like WLL (Code Division Multiplex Access, Cor-Digital Enhance Technology) and GSM (Global System of Mobile Communication) have been introduced for faster rollout.

Community Information centres in Tripura

2593. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blocks in Tripura where Community Information Centres (CICs) have been set up;

(b) the number of blocks in the State where CIC projects are due to be set up; and

(c) the benefits derived/to be derived from these CICs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) Community Information Centres have been setup in 29 blocks in Tripura. As per the approved CIC Project, no expansion of the project was envisaged.

(c) The CICs are currently being used for disseminating various Citizen Centric Services such as Information on tourism, agricultural, educational and employment opportunities, results of boards/entrance/ professional exams, Election results, etc. through CIC portal (www.cic.nic.in), web-based Services, Health Education, Training, entertainment & news. Training to the local community on the fundamentals of using computers is being provided by CICs. Biomedical